

PONZI VINEYARDS

Founded in 1970, Ponzi Vineyards was instrumental in putting Willamette Valley on the map as a world-class wine region. Today, the winery continues to set the standard in Oregon Pinot noir and Chardonnay, elevating the region's reputation as a premier wine country destination.



Laurelwood Pinot Noir 2021

Laurelwood District, Chehalem Mountains • Willamette Valley, Oregon

ESTATE

In the late 1960s Dick and Nancy Ponzi uprooted their family to pursue a dream of producing world class Pinot Noir. After research trips to Burgundy and an extensive search, they purchased 20 acres on a small farm just southwest of Portland, Oregon. They believed the climate, soils and vineyard site meet every need of noble cool-climate grape varieties. The first 4 barrels of wine produced in 1974. At the time, there are 5 bonded wineries in Oregon with 35 acres in production. Ponzi has since become internationally acclaimed for its Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. Today winemaker Luisa Ponzi continues her work of the last 30 years with the family of Champagne Bollinger, which acquired Ponzi Vineyards in 2021. The estate's drive to create distinctly pure Pinot Noir, in a distinctly Oregon manner, has never been stronger.

WINE

Situated along the Northern ridge of the Chehalem Mountains, the Laurelwood District boasts ancient soils of fractured basalt layered over with a fine, windblown sediment called loess. A decade-long effort by the Ponzis, alongside their neighbors has resulted in the recognition of Oregon's first soil-based AVA, the Laurelwood District.

VINEYARD

The Laurelwood District Pinot Noir is a blend of Ponzi's Aurora, Avellana and Madrona Vineyards along with Gemini, Alloro, Paloma and Sufi Vineyards, all of which are LIVE Certified Sustainable. This subregion of the Chehalem Mountains spreads across the northern slopes, largely protected from coastal rains, allowing the basalt soils to retain water in the spring and slowly, evenly drain throughout the growing season, bringing an inherent balance to the grape and a measured intensity to the wines.

WINEMAKING

Harvest: Sep-Oct 2021

Variety: 100% Pinot Noir

Fermentation: In small lots, with daily punch-downs

Aging: 14 months in barrel, 37% new French oak, 12 months in bottle

Alcohol: 13.8%

VINTAGE

The early rains in September refreshed the vines and the fruit started coming in mid September perfectly clean, ripe and full of flavor. Reminiscent of 2012, the nights were very cool creating wines with balanced acidity, big aromatics and delicious full flavors. Yields were somewhat smaller than expected, but that only adds to the intensity of color and structure of the wines.

TASTING NOTES

The initial nose of spiced black cherry, blackberry reduction and cinnamon expand to aromas of white pepper spice, lavender and bergamot. The mouth is velvety textured with honeyed notes and savory hints of juniper, sage, and cedar. The lingering tannins hold a hint of graphite and dark chocolate.